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ABSTRACT

While many parents are familiar with Montessori schooling at the preschool level, Montessori elementary and middle schools have also proliferated in the past decade. This book provides an overview of Montessori theory and practice, with special emphasis on the child's elementary school years. Chapter 1 presents an introduction to the origin and theory of Montessori education. Chapter 2 gives an overview of Montessori education at the primary level. Montessori theory and practice for the elementary classroom are presented in chapters 3 through 8, including children's physical, social, and moral changes; Montessori's "Great Lessons" and "Key Lessons"; classroom materials and environment; the elementary teacher; freedom and responsibility; and observations of a Montessori elementary classroom. Chapter 9 discusses Montessori's ideas for high school and university education. The final chapter describes the current state of Montessori education in the United States and suggests its potential contribution for the future. An appendix contains a high school student's reflections on her Montessori education. The book contains notes organized by chapter and 20 references. (LPP)

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